REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending in the application. Claim 3 is hereby canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gernert et al. (U.S. Patent 6,694,366 [hereinafter "Gernert"]) in view of Torikai (U.S. Patent 6,763,396).

To expedite prosecution and advance the case towards allowance, Applicants amend claims 1, 4 and 5 to provide unique combinations of elements that are neither taught nor suggested by Gernert and Torikai. For example, claims 1, 4 and 5 respectively recite that the update cycle is shorter for a data type of the plurality of data signals that changes more frequently than another type of the plurality of data signals. A similar feature was previously recited in dependent claim 3.

It is respectfully submitted that the lack of teaching or suggestion regarding claim 3 is evident from claim 3 not being rejected in view of Gernert and Torikai. As such, amended claims 1, 4 and 5 are also not obvious in view of Gernert and Torikai. The application of these references neither teaches nor suggests the claimed combination of features, including the claimed update cycle. Accordingly, the rejection of amended claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious in view of Gernert and Torikai, should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claim 6 should likewise be withdrawn, at least due to its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gernert in view of Torikai and Shiobara (U.S. Pat. No. 4,930,121).

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are not currently rejected in view of Shiobara, however, because these independent claims are respectively amended to include features similar to claim 3, Applicants take this opportunity to explain respectfully why the claimed features are neither taught nor suggested by the combination of Gernert, Torikai and Shiobara.

The Examiner cites to col. 5, lines 22-27 of Shiobara for disclosing that communications are performed more frequently when the priority level of data to be transmitted is higher. Thus, the update cycle of Shiobara is set in accordance with the *priority level* of data. However, even if data contents of Shiobara, to be transmitted, are frequently changed in a common memory 18 of one node, data in common memories 18 of the other nodes is not always updated in a shorter update cycle. Shiobara does not equate data that has a high priority level with a data type that changes more frequently resulting in a shorter update cycle. Therefore, one would not have gleaned the features of claims 1, 4 and 5 from the disclosure of Shiobara.

For example, if the priority level of data to be transmitted is low in Shiobara, data in the common memories 18 of the other nodes is not updated in accordance with a shorter update cycle. Thus, as a skilled artisan will appreciate, Shiobara does not teach nor suggest that the update cycle is shorter for a data type of data signals that changes more frequently than another data type of the data signals, as respectively recited in claims 1, 4 and 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are patentable over Gernert in view of Torikai and Shiobara.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.
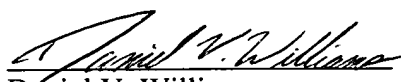
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